GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1348
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016
Report of IITs on Ganga Cleaning
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has requested Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to adopt various stretches of river Ganga and draw action plans for cleaning up the holy river;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether a consortium of IITs has submitted its reports to the Government;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government thereon; and
(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to treat pollutants before releasing them into the Ganga water?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Indian Institutes of Technology (Bombay, Delhi, Guwahati, Kanpur, Kharagpur, Madras and Roorkee) and Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India for preparation of the Ganga River Basin Management Plan on July 6, 2010 New Delhi. The IITs were entrusted with the preparation of the GRBMP to utilize the vast knowledge base and experience of IITs in the fields of environment, water resources, ecology & bio-diversity, system integration, etc. in the Government's effort to clean river Ganga.
The IIT consortium was to prepare an integrated river basin management plan to maintain and restore the wholesomeness of the Ganga system and improve its ecological health with due regard to resolution of conflict of interest in water-uses in the entire river basin. Plan was expected to have adequate provision for soil, water and energy conservation to accommodate growing population, urbanization, industrialization and agriculture while ensuring that the following fundamental aspects of the river systems are protected: Contdâ€¦..

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i. Continuous flow (Aviral Dhara),
ii. Un-Polluted flow (Nirmal Dhara),
iii. Longitudinal and lateral connectivity of the river,
iv. Adequate space for various river functions, and
v. Function as an ecological entity.
(c) & (d) The Consortium of 7 IITs has prepared and submitted a detailed report titled "Ganga River Basin Management Plan-2015" (GRBMP-2015) to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MOWR,RD&GR). The report has been circulated to various Ministries involved in the cleaning of river Ganga.
The report of the Consortium is being utilized by the NMCG for formulation of the Action Plan for rejuvenation of river Ganga.
(e) The various steps being taken by the Government for pollution abatement are:
Entry-level activities like River Surface Cleaning, Rural Sanitation, Crematoria modernization/renovation/new construction, Ghat repair, modernization and new construction are being taken up. Medium Term activities such as Municipal Sewage Management and Industrial Effluents Management are being implemented/planned. Other Activities like Biodiversity Conservation, Afforestation and Water Quality Monitoring are also being addressed. The Long Term objective of the Government is to ensure adequate flow of water in the river Ganga.
Further, CPCB has issued directions for implementing the water conservation and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in 5 key industrial sectors in the Ganga Basin, namely, distillery, pulp & paper, sugar, textile and tannery. This has resulted in reduction of effluent discharge by 125 MLD corresponding to 77 tons per day of organic load. Based on compliance and verification of effluent discharge standards from industries, CPCB has issued directions under Sec 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the defaulters. Out of the 727 industries inspected, directions were issued to 210 industries including 65 for closure. As a mechanism for verification of compliance of discharge standards from the industry, CPCB has also issued directions to the Grossly Polluting Industries (GPI) to install Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS). Out of the 764 units, 511 units have reported having installed the system. CPCB issued directions under section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs for mandatory Sewage Treatment Plants of adequate capacity for treatment and disposal of sewage. The future infrastructure projects including housing projects are mandated to develop sewage treatment infrastructure as a part of the project. The status of water quality in each State was also communicated to Chief Secretaries for review and to direct the urban local bodies to treat 100% of the sewage, formulate an action plan for improvement and installation of online water quality monitoring systems at the outfall of industrial establishments / STP/ Rivers for strict vigilance to prevent disposal of untreated effluents in the water bodies or aquifers.
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